

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-48. (Previously canceled)

def? - 49. (Previously amended) A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

50. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 49 wherein said isolate is capable of stimulating an immune response in ~~humans and~~ primates against at least one glycoprotein on HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said ~~humans and~~ primates.

51-65. (Previously canceled)

66. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 49 wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response to at least one of the gag, pol or env proteins.

67. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 66 wherein said glycoprotein is at least one of gp41-45, gp120 or gp160.

68-84. (Previously canceled)

85. (Previously amended) A vaccine composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef*

gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

86-119. (Previously canceled)

120. (Previously added) The method of Claim 49 wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

121. (Previously added) The method of claim 49 wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

122. (Previously amended) The method of claim 49, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

123. (Previously amended) The method of claim 49, wherein said isolate of HIV-1 is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

124. (Previously amended) A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion of at least 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3.

125. (Currently amended) The method of claim 124, wherein said isolate is recognized by an antibody to one of gp41-45, gp120, or gp160 of HIV-1, and said HIV strain is capable of stimulating an immune response in ~~humans or~~ primates to at least one of the *gag*, *pol*, or *env* gene products without reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said ~~humans or~~ primates.

126. (Previously amended) A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

127. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of Claim 85 wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

128. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 85 wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

129. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 85, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

130. (Currently amended) The vaccine composition of claim 85, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response in ~~humans and~~ primates against at least one glycoprotein on HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said ~~humans and~~ primates.

131. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 130, wherein said isolate is recognized by an antibody to one of gp41-45, gp120, or gp160 of HIV-1.

132. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 130, wherein said immune response is against one of the *gag*, *pol* or *env* gene products.

133. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 85, wherein said HIV-1 strain is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

134. (Previously amended) A vaccine composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said HIV-1 strain comprises a genomic deletion of at least 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3.

135. (Previously amended) The vaccine composition of claim 134, wherein said HIV strain is recognized by an antibody specific for one of HIV-1 gp41-45, HIV-1 gp120, or HIV-1 gp160, and said HIV strain is capable of stimulating an immune response in ~~humans~~ or primates to at least one of the *gag*, *pol*, or *env* gene product without reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen.

136. (Previously amended) A vaccine composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said HIV-1 strain is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

137. (Previously added) A method for inducing in an individual an immune response against HIV-1, comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

138. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 137, wherein said isolate is capable of stimulating an immune response in ~~humans~~ and primates against at least one

glycoprotein on HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said ~~humans and~~ primates.

139. (Previously added) The method according to claim 137, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response to at least one of the *gag*, *pol* or *env* proteins.

140. (Previously added) The method according to claim 139, wherein said glycoprotein is at least one of gp41-45, gp120 or gp160.

141. (Previously added) The method of Claim 137, wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

142. (Previously added) The method of claim 137, wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

143. (Previously added) The method of claim 137, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

144. (Previously added) The method of claim 137, wherein said isolate of HIV-1 is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.


145. (Previously added) An immunogenic composition capable of inducing in an individual an immune response against HIV-1, comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

146. (Currently amended) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein said isolate is capable of stimulating an immune response in ~~humans and~~ primates against at least one glycoprotein on HIV-1 while not substantially reducing proliferative responses and cytokine production to a mitogen in said ~~humans and~~ primates.

147. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein the HIV-1 isolate is recognized by an antibody to a glycoprotein of HIV-1, and is capable of inducing an immune response to at least one of the *gag*, *pol* or *env* proteins.

148. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 147, wherein said glycoprotein is at least one of gp41-45, gp120 or gp160.

149. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein said deletion results in reduced expression of the *nef* gene product.

 150. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein said deletion results in the expression of a truncated *nef* gene product.

151. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

152. (Previously added) The immunogenic composition according to claim 145, wherein said isolate of HIV-1 is selected from the group of viruses consisting of V94101706, V941031169, and V95031022.

153. (New) The method according to claim 50, wherein said primates are humans.

154. (New) The method according to claim 125, wherein said primates are humans.

155. (New) The vaccine composition according to claim 130, wherein said primates are humans.

156. (New) The vaccine composition according to claim 135, wherein said primates are humans.

157. (New) The method according to claim 138, wherein said primates are humans.

158. (New) The immunogenic composition according to claim 146, wherein said primates are humans.